(d) the other sources proposed to be tapped for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Resource mobilisation is a continuous process and mutual fund is one of the sources for financing highway projects.

(d) Other sources proposed to be tapped for financing the highway projects are:

(i) Budgetary source.

(ii) Cess on petrol and diesel.

(iii) External Assistance from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

(iv) Issue of Capital Gains Exemption Bonds under Section 54 EC of the Income Tax Act.

(v) Borrowing funds from Life Insurance Corporation.

(vi) Taking up projects under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) and Annuity Schemes.

Roads in NCT of Delhi

2758. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bad roads is the single major reason for the loss of crores of rupees each day because of higher cost of vehicle maintenance and fuel consumption; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to lay good roads throughout the National Capital Territory of Delhi in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Bad condition of roads leads to increase in the

operational cost of vehicles which includes the cost of fuel also. However, the quantum of increase depends on several factors like condition of road and type of vehicles etc.

(b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. As far as National Highways in the NCT of Delhi are concerned, the Govt. is contemplating strengthening of the existing pavement and augmentation of capacity by widening, subject to availability of funds.

New number plates of motor vehicles

2759. SHRI K. KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number plates of motor vehicles are being replaced by high security registration licence plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the State Governments to maintain uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The High Security Registration Plates are envisaged for new vehicles with effect from 30.6.2002. Existing vehicles would have a period of two years thereafter to convert.

(c) The Ministry has laid down the specifications for the plates. The agencies authorized to give Type Approval have been notified. Prospective vendors have to get their sample plates tested and approved by these authorized testing agencies. Thereafter selection of the vendor will be made by the respective State Governments.